

§103(a) based on the Suzuki, et al. patent taken with the Saito patent. With respect to applicants' claims, as amended, these rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicants' independent claims 58, 61, 69 and 72 have been amended to better define applicants' invention. Claims 58 and 69 now recite an apparatus and method for reproducing an image data stored in a detachable recording medium recording a plurality of image data together with a designation data which selects an image data as a standard image data. More particularly, in this apparatus and method, the standard image data of the plurality of image data is selected on the basis of the designation data recorded on the recording medium. Then a control value is generated on the basis of the standard image data, and the plurality of image data are processed by using the control value.

Amended claims 61 and 72 recite an apparatus and method for photographing an object to record a plurality of image data on a detachable recording medium. The method and apparatus designate an image data of the plurality of image data to be recorded on the recording medium as an image data on the basis of which a control value for processing the plurality of image data is generated, and the designated data for selecting the image data is then recorded.

Such constructions are not taught or suggested by the cited Saito and Suzuki, et al. patents. The Examiner has argued, citing column 4, lines 37-51, of the Saito patent that the patent teaches "a playback apparatus [which] plays back image data (i.e., image data being standard image data of a plurality of image data) loaded on the detachable memory cartridge based on a picture quality mode (i.e., designation data)." The Examiner has further argued, citing column 4, lines 45-51, and column 5, lines 44-50, of the Saito patent that the patent teaches "processing the plurality of image data by using the control value (... the playback apparatus checks the picture quality mode so as to determine a data expansion system suitable

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for the picture quality mode (the data expansion is a control value used for processing the plurality of image data)."

In the Saito patent, therefore, the picture quality mode (designation data) is used to indicate to the playback apparatus the data expansion mode to be used with the image data for the picture quality mode. The patent thus fails to teach or suggest that the designation data is used to select an image data of the plurality of stored data as standard data, nor can it teach or suggest that that such standard image data is used to generate a control value which is used to process the plurality image data.

Moreover, in the lines of the Suzuki, et al. patent cited by the Examiner, i.e., column 3, lines 23-37, column 4, lines 40-49, 45-51, 55-63, column 5, lines 44-50 and column 26, lines 38-46, there is no mention of the use of designation data which selects an image data as a standard image of a plurality of image data and the use of the standard image data to develop a control value for processing the plurality of image data. Applicants' amended independent claims 58 and 69, and their respective dependent claims, all of which recite these features thus patentably distinguish over the Saito and Suzuki, et al. patents.

It is further submitted that the Saito and Suzuki, et al. patents fail to teach or suggest designating an image data of a plurality of image data to be recorded on a recording medium as an image data on the basis of which a control value for processing the plurality of image data is generated, and recording the designating data. Applicants' amended independent claims 61 and 72, and their respective dependent claims, all of which recite such features, thus also patentably distinguish over the Suzuki, et al. and the Saito patents.

In view of the above, it is submitted that applicants' claims, as amended, patentably distinguish over the cited art of record. Accordingly, reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested

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Respectfully submitted,

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Version With Markings To Show Changes Made

IN THE CLAIMS

Cancel claims 51-57.

Amend claims 58, 60 and 61 as follows:

58. (Twice Amended) An image reproduction apparatus for reproducing an image data stored in a detachable recording medium recording a plurality of image data together with a designation data which [designates a] selects an [standard] image data [for controlling from among said plurality of] as a standard image data, comprising:

a [detecting] control device [for detecting said standard] adapted to select an image data as the standard image data of the plurality of image data, on the basis of the designation data recorded on said recording medium, and

[a control] an image processing device [for generating] adapted to generate a control value [for processing the plurality of image data], on the basis of said standard image data [detected by said detecting device], and [processing] process the plurality of image data by using the control value.

60. (Twice Amended) An apparatus according to claim 58, further comprising a display processing device for displaying a reproduced image of the image data processed by said [control] image processing device among the plurality of image data on a same image window.

61. (Twice Amended) An image pickup apparatus for photographing [an object] objects to record a plurality of image data on a detachable recording medium, comprising:

a designating device for designating an image data of the plurality of image data, to be recorded on said recording medium, as a [standard] image data on the basis of which a control value for processing the plurality of image data is generated [for white balance control at the time of reproduction]; and

a designated image data recording device for recording a designating data for [designating] selecting the [standard] image data.

Cancel claims 62-68.

Amend claims 69, 71, 72 and 74 as follows:

69. (Twice Amended) A method of image reproduction for reproducing an image data stored in a detachable recording medium recording a plurality of image data together with a designation data which [designates a] selects an [standard] image data as a standard image data [for controlling from among said plurality of image data], comprising:

[detecting] selecting said [standard] image data as said standard image data of the plurality of image data on the basis of the designation data recorded on said recording medium; generating a control value for processing the plurality of image data, on the basis of said standard image data [detected by said detecting device]; and

processing the plurality of image data by using the control value.

71. (Twice Amended) A method according to claim 69, further comprising displaying a reproduced image of the image data processed by [said control device] using the control value among the plurality of image data on a same image window.

72. (Twice Amended) A method for photographing an object to record a plurality of image data on a detachable recording medium, comprising:

designating an image data of the plurality of the image data, to be recorded on said recording medium, as a standard image data on the basis of which a control value for processing the plurality of image data is generated [for white balance control at the time of reproduction]; and

recording a designating data [for designating the standard image data] including information about selecting the standard image data of the plurality of image data.

74. (Amended) An apparatus according to claim [58] 61 wherein said control value is a white balance control value.